

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081343

E.O. 11652: XDGS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF MARCH 29 INCIDENT AT MOSCOW
SYNAGOGUE

REF: MOSCOW 4379 AND PREVIOUS

1. RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER OF APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE CHAIRMAN TANDEITNIK APRIL 4 IN WHICH LATTER INSISTED MILITIA DID NOT ENTER SYNAGOGUE MARCH 29 AND ASKED SCHNEIER TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT.

2. TANDEITNIK ALSO INFORMED SCHNEIER THAT "SOVIET AUTHORITIES REAFFIRMED THE INVIOLE STATUS OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND THAT POLICE HAVE NO RIGHT TO ENTER THE SYNAGOGUE AT ANY TIME, NOW OR IN THE FUTURE". SCHNEIER SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED THIS STATEMENT TO US PRESS.

3. TANDEITNIK HAD ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REACH SCHNEIER BY TELEPHONE APRIL 3 AND THEN SENT CABLE ASKING SCHNEIER TO TELEPHONE HIM URGENTLY. SCHNEIER SPECULATES
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THAT TANDEITNIK'S UNUSUAL EFFORTS TO CONTACT HIM STEMMED

FROM TELEGRAM SENT BY APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE TO KOSYGIN
APRIL 1. TELEGRAM ASKED FOR ASSURANCES THAT MARCH 29

INCIDENT WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. NOTEWORTHY THAT
SCHNEIER WAS ADVISED TO SEND TELEGRAM BY SOVIET EMBASSY,
WHEN SCHNEIER RAISED MARCH 29 AFFAIR DURING CALL AT
EMBASSY MARCH 31.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. IS EMBASSY CERTAIN THAT MILITIA
ENTERED SYNAGOGUE, AS INDICATED IN MOSCOW'S 4379? DID
EMBOFF ON SCENE WITNESS MILITIA ENTRY OR WAS EVENT
REPORTED TO EMBOFF BY FIRSTHAND WITNESSES? PLEASE CLARIFY.

5. IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE, RABBI SCHNEIER
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBOFF'S MENTIONING TO RABBI FISHMAN THAT
APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE WAS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER EVENTS OF
MARCH 29 AND APPRECIATED HEARING DIRECTLY FROM SYNAGOGUE
OFFICIALS. FYI SCHNEIER FULLY UNDERSTANDS THIS MUST BE
LEFT TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION END FYI.

6. COMMENT. ASSURANCES GIVEN SCHNEIER BY TANDEITNIK,
CLEARLY ON INSTRUCTION AND IN RESPONSE TO APPEAL OF
CONSCIENCE CABLE TO KOSYGIN, NEATLY ILLUSTRATE LEAVENING
EFFECT OF DETENTE UPON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN USSR.
ACTUAL FACTS OF THE INCIDENT, WHILE OF CONSIDERABLE
INTEREST, ARE PERHAPS LESS IMPORTANT. KISSINGER

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